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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS :

- 1) A method of detecting degradation of a rope comprising a plurality of ferromagnetic cord members, said method comprising
applying a magnetic field to a portion of said cord members;
monitoring magnetic flux associated with said magnetic field; and
5 identifying locations along said cord members exhibiting magnetic flux leakage, wherein said locations are indicative of degradation.
- 2) A method according to claim 1, wherein
said magnetic field is applied by relative movement between said rope and a magnet.
- 3) A method according to claim 1, wherein
said rope comprises a body of non-ferromagnetic insulator material having a generally rectangular cross-section in which said plurality of ferromagnetic cord members are distributed and extend
5 longitudinally therewith.
- 4) A method of detecting and locating degradation of a rope comprising a plurality of ferromagnetic cord members, said method comprising
causing said rope to move at a known rate relative to a magnet in order to apply a magnetic field to a portion of said cord members;
5 monitoring magnetic flux associated with said magnetic field as a function of time; and
identifying points in time in which said cord members exhibit magnetic flux leakage, wherein said points in time are indicative of the location of rope degradation.
- 10 5) A method for approximating tension-load bearing capacity of a rope comprising a plurality of ferromagnetic cord members, said method comprising
applying a magnetic field to a portion of said cord members;
measuring magnetic flux associated with said magnetic field; and
5 comparing said measured magnetic flux leakage to predetermined data indicative of tension-load bearing capacity.

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6) A method of detecting and locating degradation of a rope comprising a plurality of ferromagnetic cord members, said method comprising
applying a magnetic field to a portion of said cord members;
monitoring magnetic flux associated with said magnetic field;
5 identifying locations along each individual cord member
exhibiting magnetic flux leakage, wherein said locations are indicative of degradation; and
correlating said locations indicative of degradation of individual
cord members with respect to each other to determine relative locations
10 of each.

7) A method according to claim 3, further comprising
measuring the magnitude of said magnetic flux leakage.

8) A method according to claim 4, further comprising
measuring the magnitude of said magnetic flux leakage.

9) A method according to claim 6, further comprising
measuring the magnitude of said magnetic flux leakage.

10) An apparatus for detecting and locating degradation of a rope having at least one ferromagnetic component, said apparatus comprising
a body comprising rope guide means for guiding said rope along
said body;

5 a magnet fixed with respect to said body for establishing a
magnetic field adjacent to said body;
magnetic flux sensing means mounted with respect to said body
for monitoring magnetic flux associated with said magnetic field; and
means for correlating said magnetic flux with said rope to
10 determine one or more locations of degradation.

11) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein
said rope comprises a plurality of ferromagnetic cord members.

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- 12) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein
said magnetic flux sensing means comprise a plurality of
magnetic flux sensors mounted to said body.
- 13) An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein
said magnetic flux sensors comprise Hall effect transducers.
- 14) An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein
said plurality of magnetic flux sensors each correspond to one of
said ferromagnetic cord members such that each magnetic flux sensor
monitors the magnetic flux of a respective one of said cord members.
- 5 15) An apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising
control means for correlating the magnetic flux detected by each
of said magnetic flux sensors.
- 16) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein
said plurality of magnetic flux sensors are positioned with respect to said
body so that they remain on one side of said rope when it is guided along said
body.
- 5 17) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein
said plurality of magnetic flux sensors are positioned with respect to said
body so that they are on opposing sides of said rope when it is guided along
said body.
- 5 18) An apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising
means for mounting said apparatus in an elevator assembly in
such a manner as to enable it to engage an installed elevator rope with
said rope guide means for detecting and locating degradation of said
5 elevator rope.

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19) An apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising
means for mounting said apparatus to an elevator hoist machine
assembly in an elevator assembly in such a manner as to enable it to
engage an installed elevator rope with said rope guide means for
detecting and locating degradation of said elevator rope.

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20) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein
said apparatus is a self-contained, portable unit adapted to be
transported to and from an elevator assembly for use therewith to enable
it to engage an installed elevator rope with said rope guide means for
detecting and locating degradation of said elevator rope.

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21) A method for approximating the tension-load bearing capacity of an
elevator rope comprising an electrically-conductive, tension-bearing
component, said method comprising

applying an electric current through said elevator rope ;
determining electrical resistivity of said elevator rope ; and
comparing said resistivity to predetermined data indicative of
tension-load bearing capacity of said elevator rope.

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22) A method according to claim 21, further comprising
connecting current input and current output leads at dead-end
hitch points, respectively, of said elevator rope in an elevator assembly.

23) A method according to claim 21, wherein

said electrically-conductive component is a tension-bearing cord
in an elevator rope, wherein said tension-bearing member supports the
load of the elevator car.

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24) A method according to claim 21, wherein

said elevator rope further comprises a non-conductive insulating
jacket generally surrounding said electrically-conductive, tension-
bearing component.

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25) A system for approximating tension-load bearing capacity of an elevator rope having two fixed ends in an elevator assembly and comprising an electrically-conductive component, said system comprising

means for applying electric current through a section of said

5 elevator rope ;

means for measuring electrical resistivity of said elevator rope ;

and

means for correlating said measurement of said resistivity to
predetermined data indicative of tension-load bearing strength of said
10 elevator rope.

26) A system according to claim 25, wherein

said electrically-conductive component is a tension-bearing
member cord in an elevator rope, wherein said tension-bearing member
supports the load of the elevator car.

27) A system according to claim 25, wherein

said elevator rope further comprises a non-conductive insulating
jacket generally surrounding said electrically-conductive, tension-
bearing component.

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28) A system according to claim 25, wherein

said electrically-conductive, tension-bearing component of said
elevator rope comprises a plurality of cords embedded within and
running longitudinally along the length of said elevator rope for
supporting the load of an elevator car; and

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said means for applying electric current through a section of said
elevator rope engage each of said cords to apply electric current
therethrough.

29) A system according to claim 25, further comprising

means for engaging said two fixed ends of said elevator rope for
applying said electric current through said elevator rope.

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30) A system according to claim 25, further including
means for comparing said measurement of said resistivity for
each cord with the others and determining the relative tension-load
bearing strengths of each with respect to the others.

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31) A system according to claim 28, wherein
said elevator rope further comprises a non-conductive insulating
jacket generally surrounding said plurality of cords.

32) A monitoring system for monitoring the level of excitation of an elevator
rope having a load-bearing element that supports the tension loads of the
elevator system and a jacket that encompasses the load-bearing element, said
monitoring system comprising

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excitation means for exciting said load-bearing element in a
manner such that said jacket is not subject to excitation; and
monitoring means for monitoring the level of excitation of said
load-bearing element.